

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A linear guide device including a rail having ~~a rail-side raceway surface on~~ a lateral left face and a lateral right face, a slider having a front end face and a rear end face in the longitudinal direction of the rail and having slider-side raceway surfaces opposing to rail-side raceway surfaces formed on the lateral left face and the lateral right face of the rail, end caps each attached to the front end face and the rear end face of the slider, a plurality of rollers that roll along with the relative linear motion of the slider through circulation channels formed of rolling element rolling channels formed between the rail-side raceway surfaces and the slider-side raceway surfaces, rolling element returning channels formed in the slider along the longitudinal direction of the rail and direction changing channels for rolling elements formed in the end caps, and a plurality of retaining pieces each disposed between the rollers, in which the retaining pieces have a retaining piece body having a lateral left face and a lateral right face, a first arm portion extending from the lateral left face of the retaining piece body toward end faces of the two adjacent rollers and fitting a first guide groove formed to one of wall surface portions of the circulation channels, and a second arm portion disposed in parallel with the first arm portion on the lateral right face of the retaining piece body and fitting a second guide groove formed to the other of the wall surface portion of the circulation channels, wherein the height of the retaining piece body and the height of the arm portion are defined to such a height that satisfies the conditional relation:  $(H1 - H2)/2 < (Dw - W)/2$  where H1 represents the height of the retaining piece body in the direction crossing the axial direction of the roller, H2 represents the height of the first and the second arm portions in the direction crossing the axial direction of the roller, W

represents the width of the first and the second guide grooves in the direction crossing the axial direction of the roller, and  $D_w$  represents the diameter of the roller.

2. (Currently Amended) A linear guide device including a rail having ~~a rail-side raceway surface on~~ a lateral left face and a lateral right face, a slider having a front end face and a rear end face in the longitudinal direction of the rail and having slider-side raceway surfaces opposing to rail-side raceway surfaces formed on the lateral left face and the lateral right face of the rail, end caps each attached to the front end face and the rear end face of the slider, a plurality of rollers that roll along with the relative linear motion of the slider through circulation channels formed of rolling element rolling channels formed between the rail-side raceway surfaces and the slider-side raceway surfaces, rolling element returning channels formed in the slider along the longitudinal direction of the rail and direction changing channels for rolling elements formed in the end caps, and a plurality of retaining pieces each disposed between the rollers, in which the retaining pieces have a retaining piece body having a lateral left face and a lateral right face, a first arm portion extending from the lateral left face of the retaining piece body toward end faces of the two adjacent rollers and fitting a first guide groove formed to one of wall surface portions of the circulation channels, and a second arm portion disposed in parallel with the first arm portion on the lateral right face of the retaining piece body and fitting a second guide groove formed to the other of the wall surface portion of the circulation channels, wherein the height of the first and the second arm portions in the direction crossing the axial direction of the roller is defined as a height that satisfies the conditional relation:  $0.2 \leq H_2/D_w \leq 0.5$  where  $H_2$  represents the height of the arm portions and  $D_w$  represents the diameter of the roller.

3. (Currently Amended) A linear guide device including a rail having ~~a rail-side raceway surface on~~ a lateral left face and a lateral right face, a slider having a front end face and a rear end face in the longitudinal direction of the rail and having slider-side raceway surfaces opposing to rail-side raceway surfaces formed on the lateral left

face and the lateral right face of the rail, end caps each attached to the front end face and the rear end face of the slider, a plurality of rollers that roll along with the relative linear motion of the slider through circulation channels formed of rolling element rolling channels formed between the rail-side raceway surfaces and the slider-side raceway surfaces, rolling element returning channels formed in the slider along the longitudinal direction of the rail and direction changing channels for rolling elements formed in the end caps, and a plurality of retaining pieces each disposed between the rollers, in which the retaining pieces have a retaining piece body having a lateral left face and a lateral right face, a first arm portion extending from the lateral left face of the retaining piece body toward end faces of the two adjacent rollers and fitting a first guide groove formed to one of wall surface portions of the circulation channels, and a second arm portion disposed in parallel with the first arm portion on the lateral right face of the retaining piece body and fitting a second guide groove formed to the other of the wall surface portion of the circulation channels, wherein

the length of the first and the second arm portions is defined to such a length that both ends of the first and the second arm portions are situated to the outside of a circle having the center at a central portion of the retainer piece body and having a diameter H3, where H3 represents the distance between an outer lateral face of the first arm portion and an outer lateral face of the second arm portion.

4. (Original) A linear guide device according to claim 3, wherein the length of the first and the second arm portions is defined to such a length that both ends of the first and the second arm portions are situated to the outside of a circle having the center at a central portion of the rolling element rolling channel and having a diameter H4, where H4 represents the distance between a bottom of the first guide groove and a bottom of the second guide groove.

5. (Original) A linear guide device according to claim 3, wherein a distance H5 between an end portion of the outer lateral face of the first arm portion and an end portion of the outer lateral face of the second arm portion, and a distance H6 between

a central portion of the outer lateral face of the first arm portion and a central portion of the outer lateral face of the second arm portion are in a relation:  $H5 < H6$ .

6. (Original) A linear guide device according to claim 5, wherein the end portion of the outer lateral face of the first and the second arms is formed as an arcuate face convex to the bottom of the first and the second guide grooves.

7. (Original) A linear guide device according to claim 5, wherein the end portion of the outer lateral face of the first and the second arm is formed as a tapered face relative to the bottom of the first and the second guide grooves.

8. (Original) A linear guide device according to claim 3, wherein a distance  $H7$  between an end portion of an inner lateral face of the first arm portion and an end portion of an inner lateral face of the second arm portion, and a distance  $H8$  between a central portion of the inner lateral face of the first arm portion and a central portion of the inner lateral face of the second arm portion are in a relation:  $H7 < H8$ .

9. (Original) A linear guide device according to claim 8, wherein the end portion of the inner lateral face of the first and the second arms is formed as an arcuate face convex to the end face of the roller.

10. (Original) A linear guide device according to claim 8, wherein the end portion of the inner lateral face of the first and the second arms is formed as a tapered face relative to the end face of the roller.

11. (Currently Amended) A linear guide device including a rail ~~a rail-side raceway surface on~~ a lateral left face and a lateral right face, a slider having a front end face and a rear end face in the longitudinal direction of the rail and having slider-side raceway surfaces opposing to rail-side raceway surfaces formed on the lateral left face and the lateral right face of the rail, end caps each attached to the front end face and

the rear end face of the slider, a plurality of rollers that roll along with the relative linear motion of the slider through circulation channels formed of rolling element rolling channels formed between the rail-side raceway surfaces and the slider-side raceway surfaces, rolling element returning channels formed in the slider along the longitudinal direction of the rail and direction changing channels for rolling elements formed in the end caps, and a plurality of retaining pieces each disposed between the rollers, in which the retaining pieces have a retaining piece body having a lateral left face and a lateral right face, a first arm portion extending from the lateral left face of the retaining piece body toward end faces of the two adjacent rollers and fitting a first guide groove formed to one of wall surface portions of the circulation channels, and a second arm portion disposed in parallel with the first arm portion on the lateral right face of the retaining piece body and fitting a second guide groove formed to the other of the wall surface portion of the circulation channels, and has a minimum thickness at a portion put between the two adjacent rollers, wherein

plural kinds of retaining pieces each of different minimum thickness are each interposed between each of the rollers, and each of the retaining pieces is applied with a identification mark for identifying the kind thereof.

12. (Original) A linear guide device according to claim 11, wherein the retaining pieces are classified by colors on every kinds of different minimum thickness.